OSWALD & RUBY TIED TO MAFIA BOSS IN JFK 'HIT'

By MEL JUFFE

Both Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby had links to one of the Mafia bosses who, says Jimmy Hoffa's lawyer, were urged by the late Teamsters chief to kill President Kennedy.

Oswald's and Ruby's ties to New Orleans mob boss Carlos Marcello were cited yesterday by G. Robert Blakey, former counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, as he called for the release of tapes made from secret FBI wiretaps on Marcello.

Blakey said he has been told that on the tapes, Marcello — whose power reached all the way to Dallas — made self-incriminating statements about his role in the assassination.

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) also urged that the FBI tapes be made public. Stokes was chairman of that House committee, which in the late 1970s investigated JFK's assassination.

Senate Intelligence Committee chairman David Boren (D-Okla.) said all government documents on the assassination should be opened.

Lawyer Frank Ragano revealed in The Post last week that he was ordered by Hoffa to carry messages telling both Marcello and Florida mob boss Santos Trafficante that JFK had to be murdered.

"If the FBI tapes are put into context with Ragano's allegations," said Blakey, "who would they incriminate except Carlos Marcello?"

In his disclosures to The Post, Ragano, who was close to Marcello and served both Hoffa and Trafficante as a lawyer, did not explain the mob's connection with Oswald and Ruby.

Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the lone gunman in the assassination and by the Stokes committee as one of possibly two gunmen. Ruby killed Oswald and later died in prison.

FLASHBACK: *How The Post broke the story on Jan. 14.*

Did Oswald and Ruby have credible links to organized crime? Would the mob have used unstable personalities like Oswald and Ruby as hit men?

Blakey answered those questions like this:

Oswald, who was born and raised in New Orleans, had two known ties to Marcello's crime family — an uncle and an old friend — in the months before Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Oswald was living that August in New Orleans at the home of his uncle, Charles "Dutch" Murret, a bookmaker connected with the Marcello mob.

After Oswald was arrested for a street brawl while handing out literature at a pro-Castro demonstration, he was bailed out of jail by a lawyer connected to Murret and the mob.

A month later, in September, credible witnesses in New Orleans saw Oswald with an old pal, David Ferrie, who was doing investigative work for a lawyer who was defending Marcello from federal charges of deportation fraud.

Ferrie was sitting in the courtroom on the day of the assassination as the case against Marcello was adjourned. Although the courtroom provided a perfect alibi, Ferrie soon become a suspect in the assassination.

New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison, who was considered no threat by the mob, tried unsuccessfully to connect Ferrie to the CIA rather than to the Marcello family. Ferrie died before he could be brought to trial.

Jack Ruby grew up in Chicago, where he was a runner for the Al Capone mob. He moved on to Dallas, where the local mob was subservient to the leadership of godfather Marcello.

CARLOS MARCELLO
Mob boss was bugged.

JIMMY HOFFA
May have ordered hit.

OSWALD'S MURDER: *In front of worldwide TV, gunman Jack Ruby kills JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas police station in November 1963.*

Ruby's Dallas strip joint obtained its strippers and B girls on the mob-run circuit from a bar in New Orleans operated by Marcello's brother.

Ruby had a number of chums closely associated with both Marcello and Trafficante. Ruby, who had been No. 2 man in a mob-controlled Teamsters local in Chicago, also "had many mutual acquaintances" with Hoffa, according to "Hoffa," a new book by Arthur Sloane.

But would the Mafia, with its reputation for using professional hit men to commit slick murders, send flaky Oswald to kill the president and then flaky Ruby to silence Oswald?

"That would not have been a departure from their methods," said Blakey, an authority on organized crime who now teaches at Notre Dame law school.

"They've done things like that in the past. When they don't want to be identified with the crime, they will use surrogates."

Blakey cited the 1971 shooting of mob godfather *Joseph Colombo at an Italian-American Civil Rights* League rally at Columbus Circle.

Colombo was shot by Jerome Johnson, a 24-year-old black man with no known links to the Mafia. Johnson was immediately shot dead and his killer was never found.

A rebel faction of the Colombo family was behind both those shootings, Blakey said.

"Oswald was the right man for the mob only if it was able to kill him at the scene shortly after the assassination," he said.

"My guess is that that plan went awry and Oswald got away from the plaza. So they had to engage in the high-risk way of taking him out at the police station."